

A.B. GRAHAM

Student-Teacher-Philosopher

A.B. Graham, son of Joseph Archibald Graham and Esther Reed Graham, was born on Friday, March 13, 1868, on a farm in Champaign County, Ohio.

He spent his teen years in Lena. He attended grade school at Allen District #6 in Brown Township, Miami County and District #3 (Carmony), Johnson Township, Champaign County.

On June 19, 1885 A.B. Graham was one of three students to graduate in the first graduating class of the Lena Conover High School.

He was granted a teaching certificate in Miami County at the age of sixteen and later Champaign County. From 1885 to 1887 Mr. Graham taught school in Johnson Township District, Champaign County.

In 1900 his wife and family moved to Springfield Township, Clark County. On January 15, 1902 he organized a club which was called Boys and Girls Experimental Club, a forerunner of the 4-H club. The purpose was to bring rural boys and girls together to learn something of the scientific nature of farm activities. Learning through doing was to be the immediate result.

To emphasize the importance of hard work and habits of industry, which are essential to building a strong character.

How to keep boys on the farm, was the life of Albert B. Graham, founder of 4-H Clubs. He wanted to change the image of the farmer and farm life. He knew he could do this only if he could create, on the part of the farmers, a feeling ^{of} pride in their work, a work which was so important to all people in both the city and rural areas. This he knew would bring about a better standard of living for the farmer.

Mr. Graham died on Thursday, January 14, 1960, at the age of 91.